

## NEWS.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR DR. W. DETMER, of the University of Jena, has been promoted to a full professorship.

PROFESSOR DR. HANS MOLISCH has left Prag for the winter, which he will spend in botanical research at Buitenzorg, Java.

PROF. DR. HUGO DE VRIES has declined the call to the University of Würzburg as the successor of Professor Julius von Sachs.

PROFESSOR A. W. BENNETT, long the editor of the department of botany of the *Journal* of the Royal Microscopical Society, has been made editor-in-chief.

IT IS ANNOUNCED that the ten years' supplement to the *Index Kewensis*, which brings the work down to the end of the year 1895, will be issued during the present year.

DR. W. ROTHERT, of Kazan, has been appointed professor of botany and director of the physiological division of the botanical department of the University of Charkow.

PLATES nos. 19 and 20 of Lloyd's Photogravures of American Fungi show *Lycoperdon pulcherrimum* B. & C. and *Trametes serpens* Fr., and are fine examples of most successful photographic work.

A VALUABLE REVIEW of publications on agricultural botany issued in France during 1896 is given in *Experiment Station Record*, nos. 10 and 11 (8:841-853, 940-950). It was prepared by Edmond Gain of the University of Nancy.

DR. O. LOEW has given up his work in the Imperial University of Tokyo on account of impaired health. On the occasion of his departure a large gold medal was presented to him by his colleagues and students as a token of their appreciation.

PROFESSOR LESTER F. WARD recently delivered a series of five lectures, illustrated by lantern slides, on "The evolution of plants from the standpoint of paleobotany," before the students of the botanical and geological departments of the University of Chicago.



THE ADDRESS of Dr. William Trelease, on "Medical Botany," presented last June to the section on materia medica, pharmacy and therapeutics, at the forty-eighth annual meeting of the American Medical Association, at Philadelphia, has just been distributed as a reprint from the *Jour. Amer. Med. Ass.*

THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY of Western Pennsylvania (Pittsburg) has met with great success in its series of popular monthly lectures. The natural orders of plants were explained and illustrated by Mr. Wm. Falconer on the evening of September 2 to a crowded audience. The illustrative material represented 79 orders and 215 genera, and often several species for each genus; it was donated to the society by Mr. John Dunbar, of Rochester, N. Y., Mr. Henry A. Dreer, of Philadelphia, and the superintendent of Schenley Park, Pittsburg. This was the fourth lecture of the series.

ATTENTION should be called to another botanical journal which has entered the field as a popular magazine. *The Asa Gray Bulletin*, with its June number, ceased to be the organ of a chapter of the Agassiz Association, and entered upon the larger field. As was said in a recent notice of the newly established *Plant World*, there is abundant demand for a journal of this type. With G. H. Hicks as editor in chief, A. J. Pieters and C. C. DuBois as associate editors, and L. H. Dewey as business editor, we anticipate for the journal a most worthy support. *The Asa Gray Bulletin* is published bimonthly at Washington, D. C., and the subscription price is fifty cents.

WITH ITS September number, the *American Naturalist* comes into possession of new proprietors and under the charge of new editors. It makes no large promises, but seeks to define its *raison d'être*. The new editor, as already announced, is Dr. R. P. Bigelow, of Boston; while among the associate editors we find the names of the following botanists: C. E. Bessey, D. H. Campbell, H. M. Richards, E. F. Smith and W. Trelease. There is certainly a field for such a journal, and the responsible names connected with it are pledges of a very high character. In the first number the department of botany does not express itself very prominently, but it will doubtless make itself felt later.

AN INTERESTING LIST of the mycologic flora of the Kew gardens has been published in the *Bulletin of Miscellaneous Information* for April. It is a rich flora, as is perhaps to be expected when one considers the large annual influx of plants to Kew from all parts of the globe. "By this means microscopic fungi, parasitic or saprophytic, on plants are introduced in a living condition on the various hosts; whereas the higher forms, belonging to the Agaricineæ and the Gastromycetes, are usually included along with soil, or frequently on the trunks of tree ferns, either in the form of spores or in an undeveloped condition." It is interesting to note that the Polyporeæ and Thelephoreæ, so abundant in the tropics, are not represented in the list as



introduced species; and that Kew has never been responsible for the introduction into Europe of a single destructive parasite. The list enumerates 1340 species, representing 337 genera.

DR. J. N. ROSE returned from his Mexican trip early in October. His work was mostly confined to the little-known parts of the Sierra Madre. He visited Guaymas, La Paz (L. C.), Mazatlan, and Acaporeta on the western side, crossed the two ranges of the Sierra Madre north of the Acaporeta, and made two excursions into them, one from the west at Rosario, and the other from the east at Bolanos, the latter being one of Seeman's stations. The states chiefly explored were Durango, Jalisco, Zacatecas, and the territory of Tepic. The collection contains 2000 numbers, and is especially rich in umbellifers, agaves, and orchids, many living specimens of the two latter groups having been shipped for cultivation.

THE SEABOARD AIR LINE railroad, which extends from Portsmouth, Va., to Atlanta, Ga., has inaugurated a novel system of instruction of the communities along its territory. It began by encouraging tree planting and village improvement. During the present season it has been holding one-day farmer's institutes, all illustrative material and appliances, and the force of instructors being transported from place to place in a train of cars especially fitted up for the work. Another feature is the establishment of experimental farms every ten miles along the whole line; twenty-eight are now organized. Among the crops being tested are hops, ginseng, Kafir corn, and pyrethrum; fruits and grasses will be taken up in due course of time. Both the community and the railroad, and even the country at large, should profit by such well devised philanthropy.

THE LATE Dr. Edmund Russow, of the University of Dorpat (now officially known in Russia as Jurjew), left two important collections, which the widow desires to sell. One is a collection of about 3750 finely prepared and well preserved microscopical preparations. It is especially valuable because it includes the original mounts used for the late owner's classical investigations. Thus there are about 400 mounts connected with his investigations on the vascular cryptogams, including 125 of the anatomy and development of Marsilia, 22 of Pilularia, 32 of Equisetum, 37 of Lycopodium, 34 of Selaginella, etc. There are also the preparations for his notable investigations on wood, including 214 of Pinus, showing all ages and methods of treatment. It includes besides a set of 122 drugs. In general the preparations cover all families of phanerogams, among which might be named the Cycadeæ, Juncaceæ, Cyperaceæ, Gramineæ, Ranunculaceæ, and Cucurbitaceæ, which formed the original material for the author's publications. In the interest of science it is desirable that this collection be acquired by some institution where it may be accessible.



The second collection is the *Sphagnum* collection. Through his systematic and anatomical work on the Baltic *Sphagnaceæ* Russow was known as one of the foremost students of the group. He had intended to extend his monographic work when interrupted by death. The collection consists of 314 fascicles, and about 3000-4000 microscopical preparations, with outline sketches of the same, especially of the species which have been already worked up. In addition there are 300 photographic lantern slides of localities of the different sphagnums. It is much to be desired that this collection also be made generally accessible in some institution. It would be especially valuable for America, as it contains the European species, varieties, and forms completely and critically determined and worked over; and the exact relation of the American to the European sphagnums forms one of the interesting botanical problems. Further information regarding the collection may be obtained by addressing Frau Professor Emma Russow, Schloss-str. 15, Dorpat, Russia.